

VISIT...

LANZAROTE
Caliente.COM

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

Vocabulary Readers

Mysteries of the Deep

by Gary Miller



Number of Words: 531

PHOTOGRAPHY CREDITS

Cover (bkgd) © Louise Murray/Robert Harding World Imagery/Getty Images. (inset) © Bettmann/Corbis. **1** © Louise Murray/Robert Harding World Imagery/Getty Images. **2–12** (bkgd) © Louise Murray/Robert Harding World Imagery/Getty Images. **3** (b) M. Yano /Glen Kuban. **4** (b) © Jim Zuckerman/Corbis. **5** (b) © Jeffrey L. Rotman/Corbis. **6** (t) © Bettmann/Corbis. (b) © Bob Cranston/Animals Animals - Earth Scenes. **7** (t) © Bettmann/Corbis . (b) © B & C Alexander/NHPA . **8** (b) © Popperfoto /Almay. **9** (b) © Bettmann/Corbis. **10** (b) © Vo Trung Dung/Corbis SYGMA. **11** (b) © Bettmann/Corbis . **12** (c) © Bettmann/Corbis.

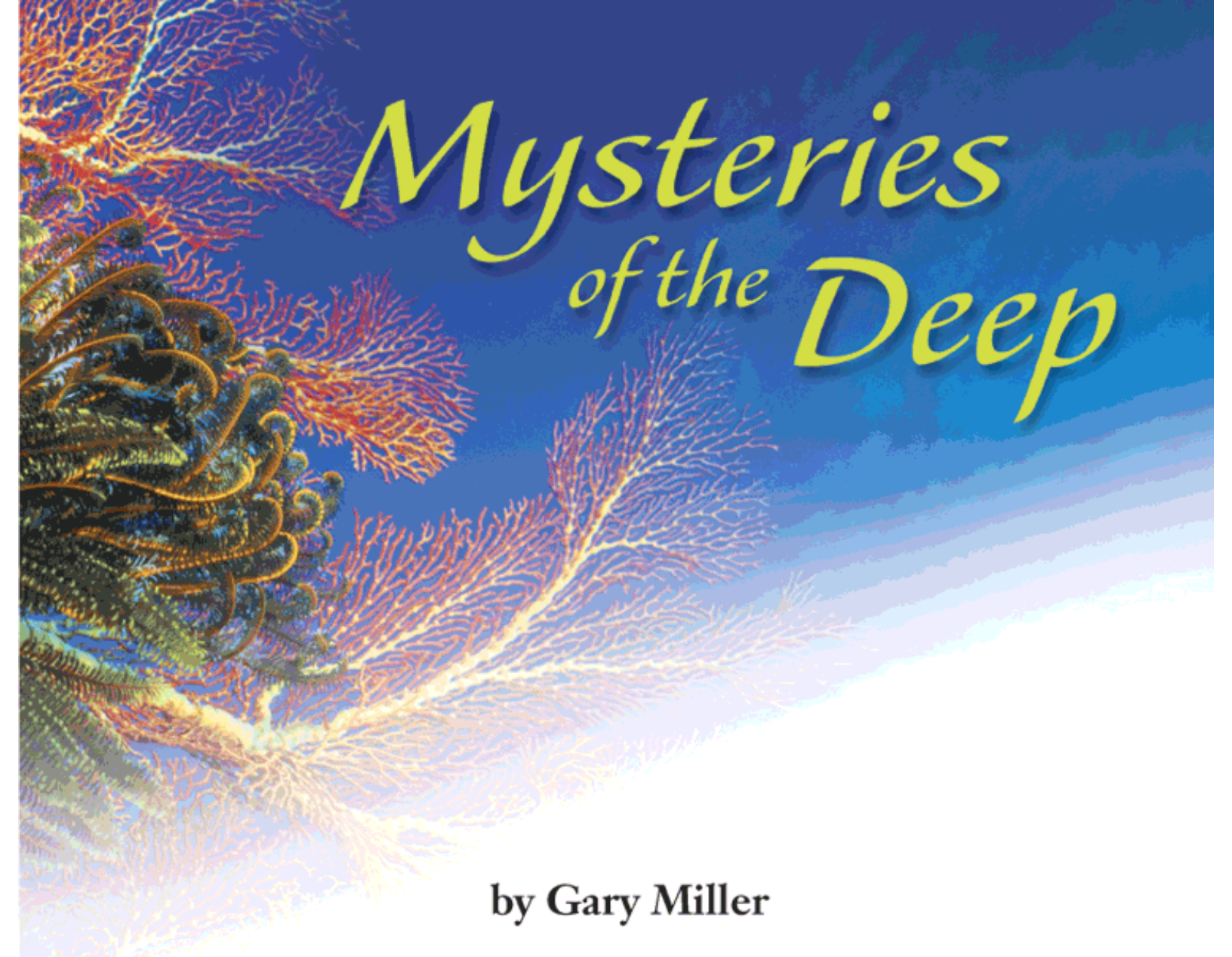
Copyright © 2006 by Houghton Mifflin Company. All right reserved.

No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying or recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system without the prior written permission of Houghton Mifflin Company unless such copying is expressly permitted by federal copyright law. Address inquiries to School Permissions, Houghton Mifflin Company, 222 Berkeley Street, Boston, MA 02116.

Printed in the U.S.A.

ISBN: 0-618-64987-5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 B 14 13 12 11 10 09 08 07 06 05



Mysteries of the Deep

by Gary Miller



Strategy Focus

Before you read, look at the illustrations and see if you can **predict** what the selection will be about.

Key Vocabulary

abandoned left behind; deserted

afterdeck rear part of a ship's deck

bulkhead wall that divides a ship's cabin into compartments

buoy anchored float used to mark safe passages in the water

derelict uncared for

discount doubt the truth of something

inquiries requests for information

port side left side of a boat

visibility how far you can see

Word Teaser

How many bathrooms
does a ship have?

Dinosaur at Sea?

In 1977, a group of Japanese fishermen hauled up a dead sea animal. They couldn't believe what they saw. The creature was thirty feet long. It weighed thousands of pounds. It had a large head and a neck like a serpent. Its limbs looked like paddles. It *looked* like a prehistoric animal. But that was impossible! Wasn't it?



The crew dropped the creature on the afterdeck. It was too large to fit. It pressed up against the ship's bulkhead. One man took photos. Another cut off a piece of the animal's flesh. Then the animal was dropped over the port side, back into the ocean.

Soon people everywhere were talking about the incredible photos. Scientists studied them closely. They also analyzed the animal's flesh. They didn't want to discount the idea that it really *was* a prehistoric creature.



In the end, scientists decided that the creature was a common fish called the basking shark. But that answer didn't convince everyone. Even today, some people still think it *was* a prehistoric animal from the deep.



Sea Monsters or Sea Myths?

For thousands of years, people have told tales about sea monsters. Some stories were entirely made up. But others may have been based on real sightings. The stories continue to raise one question. Could mysterious giant creatures really lurk in the deep?



Sailors once told stories of sea monsters with many arms. They were probably giant squids.

The earth's lakes and oceans are vast. Scientists discover new creatures all the time. Maybe sea monsters are just waiting to be uncovered!

But, maybe "sea monsters" are simply **buoys** bobbing in the waves, or long strands of seaweed waving in the water. Perhaps they are the results of poor **visibility** in foggy seas.



"Unicorn horns" turned out to be tusks from a sea animal called the narwhal (NAR-wall).

The Mystery of Loch Ness

The world's most famous sea monster is said to live in a large loch, or lake, in Scotland. It's called the Loch Ness Monster. Many claim to have seen the monster. They say it has a long neck and a humped back, and it's more than 20 feet long. Others insist there is no such creature. People have wondered about this mystery for hundreds of years.



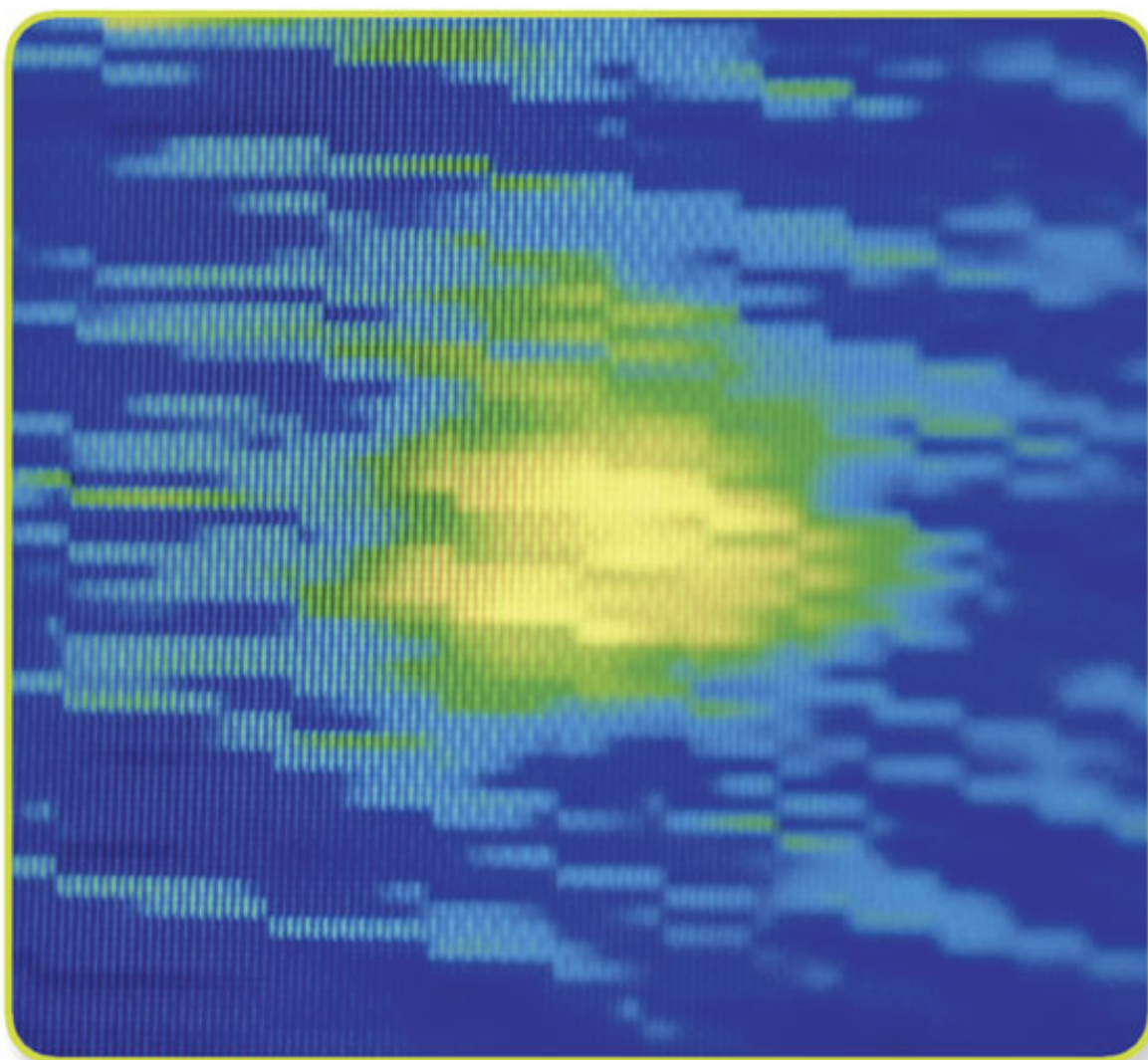
This photo of the monster turned out to be a fake.

The first recorded sighting of the monster happened around 565 A.D. Some people have described their sighting in words. Others have drawn pictures of what they saw. A few have even taken photos or movies. They believe they have proof that the monster exists, or existed.



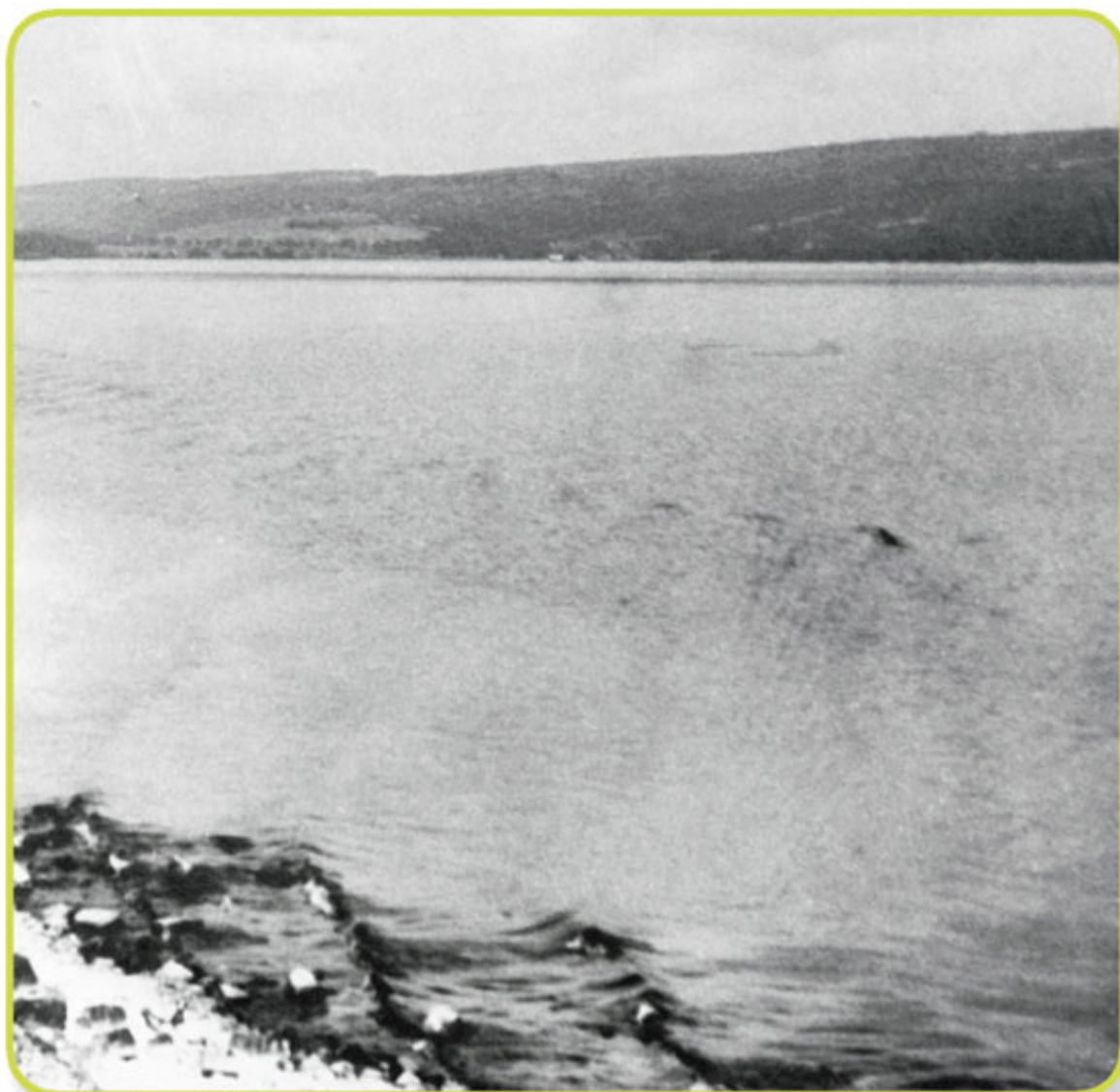
An old painting of a sea monster. Could the monster of Loch Ness be a similar beast?

Scientists have made serious **inquiries** into the case of the Loch Ness Monster. Most agree that the monster simply can't exist. They say there isn't enough food in Loch Ness to feed a group of large animals. And more than one monster would be needed to keep the species alive for all those centuries! No bones or other remains have been found **abandoned** on the shore.



A sonar image taken in Loch Ness shows a large object. Is it evidence of a monster?.

Some think the sightings at Loch Ness were faked. Others think people may have seen *something*, but it wasn't a monster. Maybe it was a **derelict** boat, half sunk in the water. Waves can look like a humped back. So can a group of swimming otters. But some people still insist they've seen the monster.



This line of waves looks like the humped back of an animal. Can imagination turn this into a sea monster?

Are sea monsters real? Or are they simply fantasies?
You'll have to decide for yourself!



Responding

Putting Words to Work

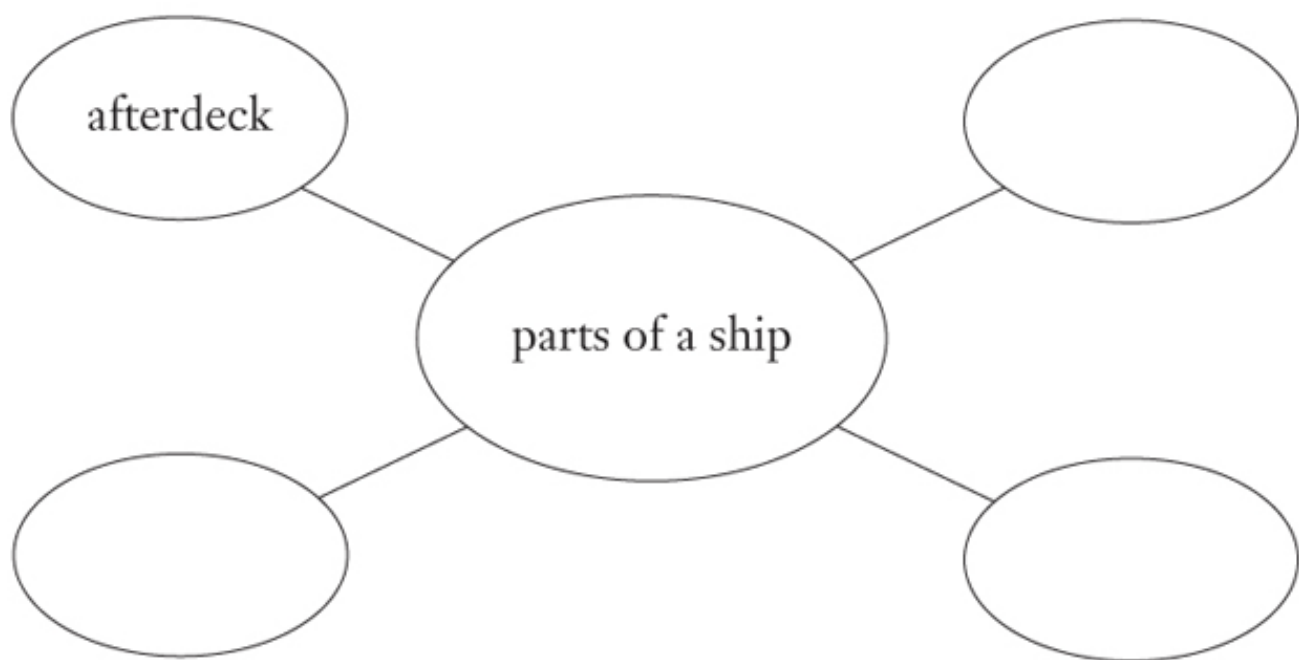
1. Would you like to make **inquiries** into the case of the Loch Ness Monster? Why or why not?
2. If someone believed that sea monsters exist, what might make them **abandon** the idea?
3. Why might people immediately **discount** a story about sea monsters?
4. Complete the following sentence:
Because of the **buoy** in the water, we _____.
5. **PARTNER ACTIVITY:** Think of a word you learned in the text. Explain its meaning to your partner and give an example.

Answer to Word Teaser

Two: one for buoys and one for gulls!

Word Builder

You've read about the **bulkhead** and other parts of a ship. How many parts of a ship can you name? Copy the word web. Fill it with other parts or sections of a ship. Use an encyclopedia or other reference book if you need help.



Write About It

Write a paragraph about taking a voyage to search for sea monsters. Use your imagination! And try to use at least two words from your word web.

Key Vocabulary

abandoned
afterdeck
bulkhead
buoy
derelict
discount
inquiries
port side
visibility

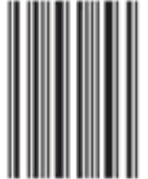
6.6.4

ISBN 0-618-64987-5



9 780618 649877

9 0000



HOUGHTON MIFFLIN

1-31265